GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3004
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
UNATTENDED WHEAT STOCK WITH FCI
SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `FCI,Government blame each other for rain-socked wheat` appearing in Times of India dated May 18, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) whether a large quantum of wheat are lying unattended is open in Delhi;

(d) if so, whether the Government have fixed responsibility for such a loss;

(e) whether the storage system of FCI needs further modernisation; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a),(b)&(c): Yes, Sir. During Rabi Marketing Season 2001-2002, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has procured 50,000 tonnes of wheat at Nazafgarh and Narela Mandies in Delhi.However, some of the procured wheat has experienced unseasonal rain which was shifted to FCI Depot and no damage has occurred to this procured wheat stock.

(d): Does not arise.

(e)&(f): In order to reduce storage and transit losses of foodgrains, and to introduce modern technology of bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains, the Government has announced a national policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains. The policy envisages harnessing the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, to build and operate infrastructure for bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains. The policy also envisages creation and operation of conventional storage godowns by private sector for storage of foodgrains of the FCI on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.